

Message Text

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TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: POSITIONS OF ALLIES--PART 14-PORTUGAL

1. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST WE TRANSMIT BELOW OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WHICH PORTUGAL HAS IN CSCE. WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEMPTED TO ELABORATE ON SUBJECTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL CONCERN TO ALL OR MOST NATO ALLIES, AND OF WHICH THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE.

2. NEW GOVERNMENT'S MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE--ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRESENT PORTUGUESE REGIME TOWARD CSCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT POSTURE OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HERE HAS SHIFTED SOMEWHAT SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE CAETANO REGIME, AND IS NOW GENERALLY MORE POSITIVE THAN BEFORE. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN FEW SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES OF POSITION, THIS ATTITUDE HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR IN NUMEROUS MINOR WAYS, ALL OF WHICH ADD UP TO A GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARD POSITIVE SOLUTIONS TO CONFERENCE PROBLEMS.

3. ALLIED CONSULTATIONS--LIKE OTHER NON-NINE NATO MEMBERS, THE PORTUGUESE HAVE FELT SOMEWHAT LEFT OUT OF THE ALLIED CONSULTATION PROCESS IN CSCE, SINCE FIRM EC-NINE POSITIONS ARE OFTEN AGREED BEFORE PROBLEMS ARE DISCUSSED

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IN THE NATO CAUCUS, BUT THEY HAVE LET THE US,

CANADIAN AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATIONS TAKE THE LEAD IN STIMULATING MORE MEANINFUL NATO CONSULTATIONS. SINCE THE COUP D'ETAT, THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAS ENTERED INTO BROADER AND MORE DETAILED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EASTERN COUNTRIES, AND HAS EVEN ON OCCASION BEEN ASKED TO CONVEY EASTERN MESSAGES TO THE NATO CAUCUS. THE PORTUGUESE HERE ARE EVIDENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTION TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET BLOC DELGATES.

4. PRINCIPLES--THE PORTUGESE HAVE NOT TAKEN A MAJOR ROLE ON THE PRINCIPLES, AND HAVE LIMITED THEMSELVES TO SAFEGUARDING THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

5. MILITARY ASPECTS--

(A) GENERAL--PORTUGAL SHARES GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF NATO ALLIES TO HAVE SOME MODEST MILITARY CONTENT IN CSCE, IN FORM OF MEANINGFUL AGREEMENT ON CBMS.
(B) MOVEMENTS--PORTUGUESE HAVE UNENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTED THE MAJORITY NATO VIEW IN FAVOR OF A CBM ON MOVEMENTS. DESPITE THE APPARENT PROGRESS TOWARD RAPID DECOLONIZATION, THEY STILL HAVE SOME LINGERING CONCERN THAT SUCH A CBM COULD INHIBIT THEIR FREEDOM TO MOVE TROOPS TO ANGOLA. NEVERTHELESS, THEY HAVE MAINTAINED NATO SOLIDARITY AND HAVE NEVER EXPRESSED THEIR HESITATIONS IN FULL CSCE.
(C) EXEMPTION FOR AZORES--THE PORTUGUESE SEEK TO EXEMPT THE AZORES FROM THE AREA OF APPLICATION FOR CBMS.

6. ECONOMICS--PORTUGAL HAS SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF OTHER EUOEPEAN LDC'S (INCLUDING TURKEY, GREECE, ROMANIA, SPAIN AND MALTA) TO GET CSCE RECOGNITION OF THE CONCEPT OF "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN EUROPE". HOWEVER, THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAS PLAYED A LESS ACTIVE ROLE ON THIS QUESTION THAN OTHERS.

7. BASKET III--PORTUGAL HAS SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AREA.

8. MEDITERRANEAN--ALTHOUGH NOT TECHNICALLY A MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY, PORTUGAL HAS SHONW A KEEN INTEREST IN QUESTIONS RELAING TO THE MEDITERRANEAN, SUCH AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF
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THE MEDITAERRANEAN DECLARATION. THE FACT THAT THEY HAD PROVIDED LANDING RIGHTS TO US AIRCRAFT DURING THE LAST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR PUT THE PORTUGUESE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE ARABS, AND LED THEM TO TAKE FIRM POSITIONS EXLCUDING FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS BY NON-PARTICIPATING MEDITERRANEAN STATES. THE NEW REGIME EVIDENTLY HOPES TO FOLLOW A MORE EVEN-HANDED POLICY. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CSCE FOR THE PORTUGUESE TO

DEMONSTRATE THIS POLICY, WE ASSUME THAT IT WILL BE
REFLECTED IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES
WHEN THE OCCASIONS ARISE.

9. FOLLOW-UP--PORTUGAL IS ONE OF THE ONLY NATO ALLIES
WHICH OPENLY FAVORS ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM.
THE PORTUGUESE MADE AN INTERVENTION SHORTLY AFTER
THE COUP D'ETAT, MAKING THIS POSITION KNOWN TO THE FULL
CSCE. DALE

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